

CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, Members of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about SB 580. My name is Dr. Eva Ceranowicz and I am president of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which represents over 95% of Connecticut's licensed veterinarians.

I understand Senate Bill 580 is intended to ensure that directly dispensed veterinary medications are prescribed in a manner consistent with their purpose and to avoid adverse effects in veterinary patients to the maximum extent possible. While well intended, we think the bill is unnecessary and believe the vast majority of licensed veterinarians already perform to the standard you have suggested.

However, if the Committee decides to move this proposal forward, we have some suggested language changes: One, the 180 day "look back" period for review, is a concept relevant to "drug withdrawal times" for food animals, but not relevant to clinical practice on single animals. While it is important that drugs not be present in any amount in the tissues of animals intended for human food, this rigorous standard is not applicable to companion animals. In the case of companion animals, a potentially interacting drug need only be stopped long enough for its clinical potency and its likelihood of interacting diminish. As written, this requirement adds an unnecessary and irrelevant burden on veterinarians who do not practice with species intended for food.

Additionally, the proposed legislation makes mention of the USDA APHIS and the AVMA, as resources to reference when considering the potential for adverse drug reactions. In reality, neither of these organizations are the appropriate source for information regarding adverse drug reactions in individual animals. The USDA issues regulations regarding drug withdrawal times for animals intended for the human food chain, not information on every drug used in clinical practice that might interact or cause adverse reaction. Sources for that information are veterinarians themselves and a number of excellent written and digital references.

In closing, we agree with the intent of SB 580, though as previously stated I believe the vast majority of licensed veterinarians already perform to the standard you have suggested. Success in clinical practice today is completely dependent on good communication with animal owners and has been for two generations. The public expects no less. Thank you.

Eva Ceranowicz DVM
President, Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association